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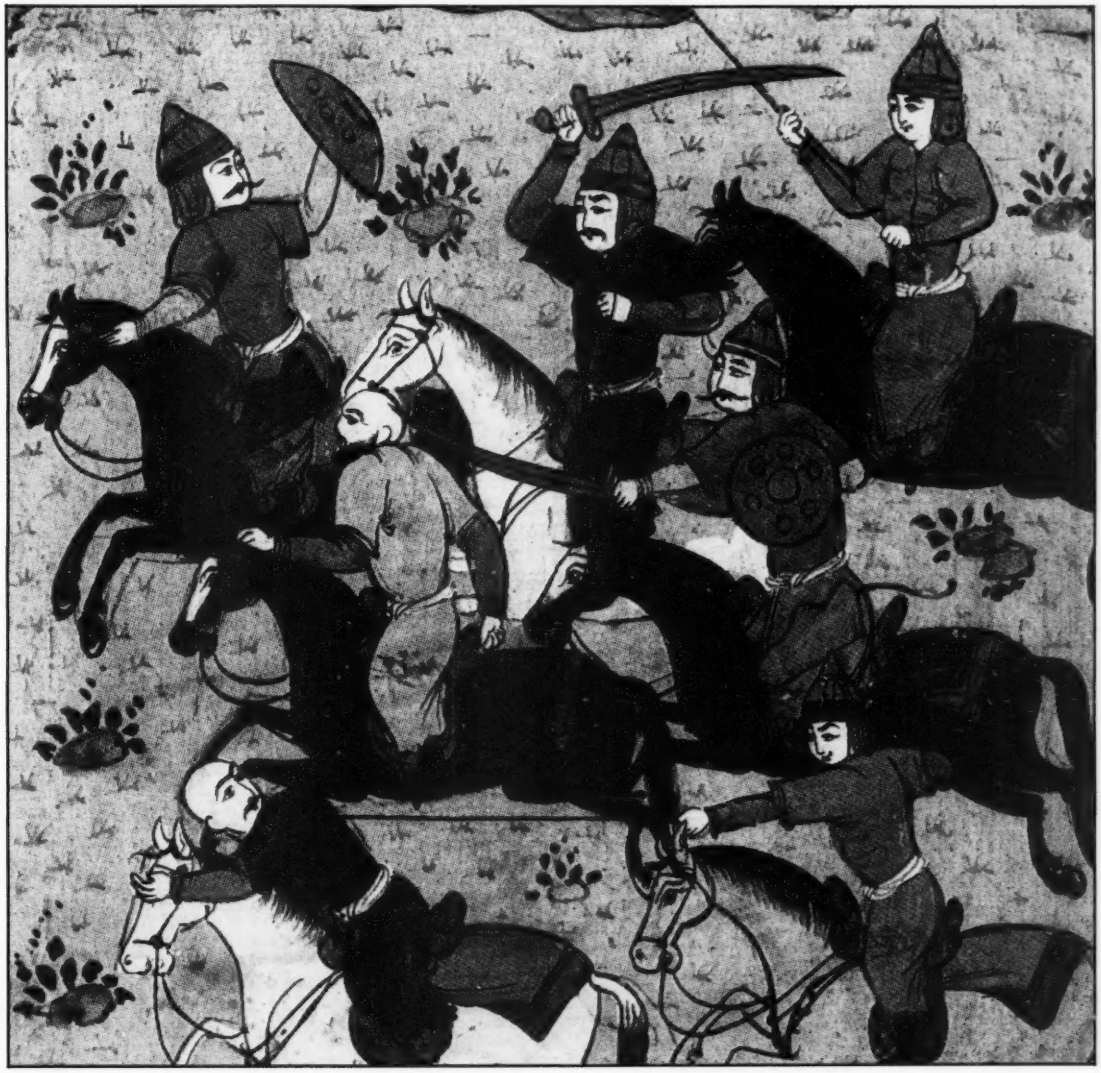

The Near East Section Turns 50

Library of Congress

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JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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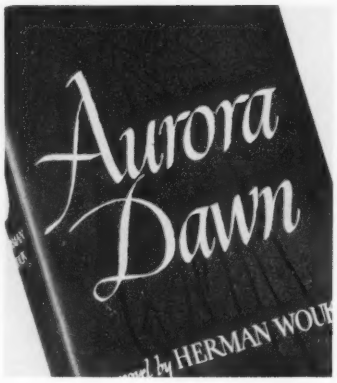

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On the Cover: An illustrated leaf from a Persian manuscript showing a battle scene, with text written in script in four columns, dates from the Timurid period (1369–1500).

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DIANN J. JOHNSON, MALINDA B. NEALE, PEGGY F. PIXLEY, SHERYLE O. SHEARS, Printing Management Section
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Frederick Douglass:
Colloquium Explores His Writings, Home and Career

A Library colloquium examined the writing, life and place in American history of Frederick Douglass, who escaped slavery to become one of the most influential African American spokespersons of his day.

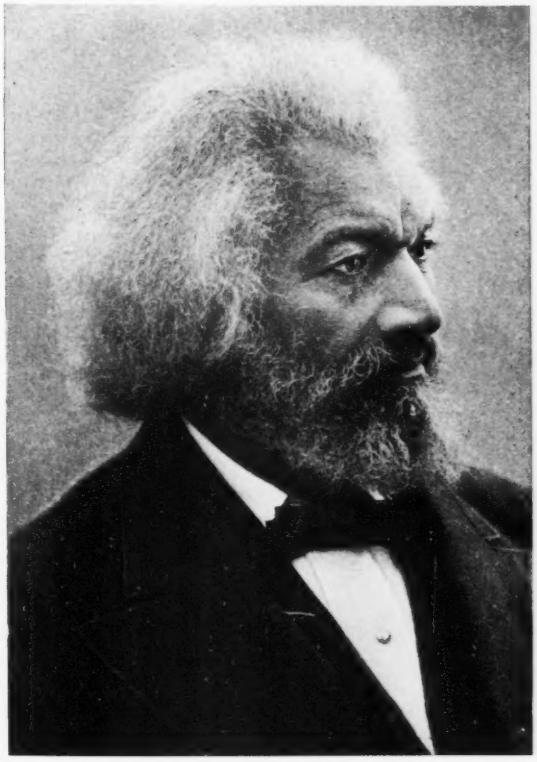
Douglass was a 19th century statesman, journalist and man of American letters, according to three scholars who presented papers at the Library to mark the 100th anniversary of his Feb. 20, 1895, death.

Presenting their views were David Blight, associate professor of history and black studies at Amherst College; William McFeely, a Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer and humanities professor at the University of Georgia; and Waldo Martin, professor of history at the University of California at Berkeley.

Among sponsors of the March 30 symposium were the Library; the Caring Institute, which manages the Frederick Douglass Museum and Hall of Fame for Caring Americans, located in Douglass's first home in Washington on A Street; and the National Park Service of the National Capital Region, which oversees the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site at Cedar Hill, his second home in Washington.

Prosser Gifford, director of Scholarly Programs, welcomed the gathering on behalf of Dr. Billington and thanked the District of Columbia Humanities Council for providing financial support for the symposium.

Born in 1818 on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Douglass wrote three autobiographies: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (1845), *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855), and the *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (1881, 1892).



Frederick Douglass

In his lecture titled "Several Lives in One: Frederick Douglass's Autobiographical Art," Dr. Blight said that in *Narrative* and *My Bondage and My Freedom,* Douglass's two pre-Civil War autobiographies, the author understood the ramifications of slavery for individuals and for the nation.

"His overriding theme was the meaning of freedom, freedom as idea, and as reality, freedom of mind and of body; and of the consequences of freedom's denial," Dr. Blight said. "Douglass's wonderful story of the slave, who would struggle out of his past to some kind of safe landing in the present . . . had much to do with why the *Narrative* became a best-seller," said Dr. Blight, editor of the St. Martin's Press 1993 edition of Douglass's *Narrative* and author of *Frederick Douglass' Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee* (1989).

"*My Bondage and My Freedom* may read at times like a melodramatic novel, but it is also a commentary for all time on the idea of resistance," said Dr. Blight.

He noted that Douglass's antebellum autobiographies were popular in his day because of the mid-19th century literary conventions he employed: tributes to abolitionism, escape and captivity narratives, tales of self-made men and spiritual autobiography. "Douglass dearly needed to escape his past, but he also never stopped probing and reshaping, ascending from it, and looking for himself in that past," said Dr. Blight.

Dr. Blight said Douglass's third autobiography, the *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass,* is a storehouse of information about the author's associations, contributions to events, travels and ideas about the great issues of the Civil War, Reconstruction and the Gilded Age.

During a question-and-answer period, Dr. Blight acknowledged criticism of Douglass, who omitted detail about his relationships. Dr. Blight noted that not even in the

Craig Hobson

Waldo Martin

monumental *Life and Times* did Douglass mention Anna Murray Douglass, a free black woman from Maryland whom he married within days of his escape to the North and lived with for 44 years, until her death in 1882. He did not mention their five children, nor did he mention his controversial marriage to his second wife, Helen Pitts Douglass, a white woman 20 years his junior who was his secretary when he was recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia and his neighbor at Cedar Hill.

Douglass at Cedar Hill

In a lecture titled "Frederick Douglass at Cedar Hill," Dr. McFeely provided a slide tour of the home where Douglass lived the last 17 years of his life. In 1877, Douglass had moved his family from its relatively small A Street house across the Anacostia River to Uniontown, now called Anacostia. "There, high on a sweet little hill, was the house he called Cedar Hill," said Dr. McFeely, whose *Frederick Douglass* (1991) garnered a Lincoln Prize and a Christopher Award. "As you enter the Douglass home," he continued, "you know at once that you surely are not in a humble dwelling, neither are you in a grand mansion. Instead, you are in as fine an example of an upper-middle-class American house as existed in this country," said Dr. McFeely. "There is silverplate as opposed to sterling, cut glass rather than crystal, pretty china, not grand china. This is a house of almost limitless comfort."

Dr. McFeely noted that a violin on the piano in the west parlor, where family and friends visited informally, belonged to Douglass's grandson, Joseph Douglass, a concert violinist. Other objects in the house include a bust of Wendell Phillips, a portrait of Sen. Blanche Bruce of Mississippi, and a large picture of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The home also contains a portrait of Abraham

Craig Hobson

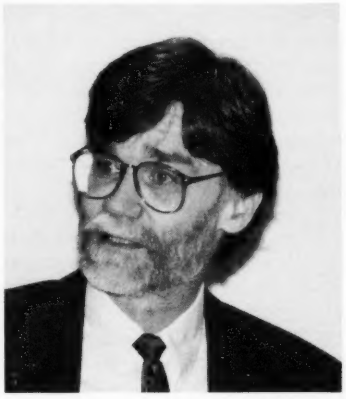
William McFeely

Lincoln, and one of Gen. Florvil Hyppolite of Haiti, who was establishing his rule while Douglass was minister to that country from 1889 to 1891.

One reminder of Douglass's private life is a German clock in a corner, a gift from Ottilia Assing, a German Jewish reformer who came to the United States in 1856 to meet Douglass, whose *My Bondage and My Freedom* she admired. She gave Douglass the clock, elaborately carved from black walnut, as a memento of their friendship, which Dr. McFeely believes was romantic.

Dr. McFeely noted that the kitchen area is a reminder that the family who lived at Cedar Hill, like other middle-class families similarly situated economically, had servants. That Douglass never mentioned his servants suggested "that by the time he had moved to Cedar Hill, he had moved into a class of Americans for [whom] one of the luxuries was being served by an invisible class," Dr. McFeely said. "If I could fault Frederick Douglass on any realm, it is for his insensitivity in this area," Dr. McFeely said. "If we are candid, we will recognize that while Frederick Douglass, who so magnificently portrayed the plight of one class, the slaves, did not, after slavery ended, permit himself to fully comprehend the plight of a still larger percentage of Americans. These people, an inordinate number of whom were black and not nearly as lucky as he, lived lives of great toil and [in] fear of poverty," Dr. McFeely said.

According to Dr. McFeely, the most important room at Cedar Hill is Douglass's library, with more than 2,000 books. Just published is *Bibliography of the Frederick Douglass Library at Cedar Hill* by William Petrie and Douglas Stover. The collection includes books that belonged to his second wife, who was a Mount Holyoke graduate. It also contains government publications that Douglass probably acquired as



Craig Hobson

David Blight

deposit copies during his three terms on the public payroll: as a recorder of deeds and marshall for the District of Columbia and as minister to Haiti. Dr. McFeely said there is much to learn about Douglass's intellectual interests from his library, which included collections of music, cultural anthropology and literature.

Douglass as Journalist

Dr. Martin, author of *The Mind of Frederick Douglass* (1984), focused on Douglass's career as a journalist. In his lecture, "The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Douglass," Dr. Martin said that although Douglass was not the first African American to edit a newspaper, he quickly assumed a preeminent role. Douglass published a newspaper from 1847 to 1863 in Rochester, N.Y. He changed its name from *North Star* to *Frederick Douglass Paper* to the *Douglass Monthly*. He published the *New National Era* from 1870 to 1874 in Washington.

"African American newspapers provided an institutional framework from which to further, actively, the ongoing black liberation struggle . . . to end not simply slavery, but also race prejudice and discrimination. The black press was a vital institution in this ongoing offensive," Dr. Martin said.

"By the 1850s, Douglass was the foremost African American spokesperson, and his work as a journalist was vital to his position as a self-described leader, a public gadfly, an African American Jeremiah, a voice of progress and human betterment," said Dr. Martin.

"Although Douglass worked within a particular framework—his own people's liberation—he saw himself as part of the working out of the American experience. . . . His enduring legacy forces us to think anew about the centrality of this historic tension between identities of race and nation," Dr. Martin said. "Douglass pointedly rejected the concept of the United States as a white or racially exclusive nation. He envisioned a broadly inclusive America which transcended narrow and divisive boundaries like race."

Russell Jones

Front elevation of Cedar Hill, which faces northeast at 14th and W Streets S.E. in Washington

—Charlynn Spencer Pyne

Charlynn Spencer Pyne, a participant in the Leadership Development Program, assists the chief of the Copyright Acquisitions Division.

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Flemish Author Reads for LC Tape Archive

On June 12, award-winning Flemish author Bob Mendes recited from his work *Vergelding: Voorspel tot Saddams Oorlog*, or *Prelude to Saddam's War* (1992), for the Library of Congress's Archive of World Literature on Tape.

In 1993 *Vergelding* was awarded the "Gouden Strop" (Golden Noose) for the best thriller or spy novel published in the Dutch language. This year the English translation of this work was published under the title, *Vengeance: Prelude to Saddam's War*. Also included among his publications are *Het Chunnel Syndrome* or *Chunnel Syndrome* (1989), currently being translated into English, *Link* (1994) and *Meedogenloos*, or *Without Pity* (1995).

Mr. Mendes was welcomed to the Library by David Kraus, acting chief of the European Division, and Margrit B. Krewson, the division's German/Dutch area specialist.

Mr. Mendes was born in Antwerp, Belgium. In 1963 he became a member of the National College of Belgian CPAs. He retired as senior partner and business manager for a CPA firm, but is still a member of the board of directors. He currently resides in Schoten, Belgium.

Joost v.d. Broek

Award-winning Flemish author Bob Mendes reads from his work *Prelude to Saddam's War* for the Library's Archive of World Literature on Tape.

His works *Een Dag van Schaamte*, *Vergelding*, *Link* and *Het Chunnel Syndrome* are critically acclaimed examples of the genre "faction-thrillers," in which the author interweaves fictional stories with actual events. The events leading up to the Gulf War are the factual backdrop for *Vergelding*. Mr. Mendes researches historical archives, broadcast and print media sources for his information.

Mr. Mendes is also the author of short stories, several of which were selected for inclusion in the 1994 edition of *Spannend Gebundeld* (Thrillingly Packaged), an anthology of works by the best Dutch, Flemish and American practitioners of the thriller. He recently published two plays, *Virus* and *Een Kwestie van Geld* (A Question of Money).

The author was accompanied by Françoise Maertens of the Flemish Community, Embassy of Belgium, and H.G. Smittenaar, his translator and publisher in the United States.

PUBLICATIONS

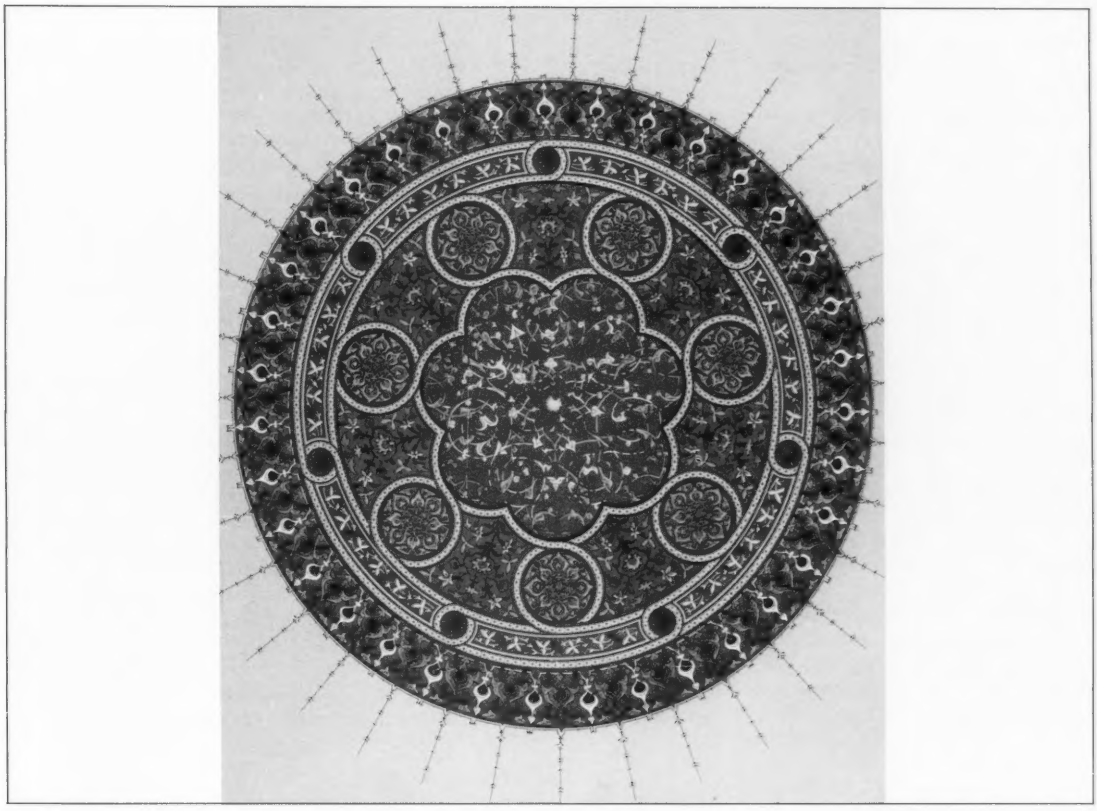
Austria: A Country Study, and **Algeria: A Country Study**

The Library of Congress Federal Research Division has issued the latest two volumes in a series of country studies published under an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army: *Austria: A Country Study*, edited by Eric Solsten; and *Algeria: A Country Study*, edited by Helen Chapin Metz.

The series consists of more than 100 titles and covers approximately 143 sovereign states and 15 dependencies. A typical book in the series, intended as an introduction to an individual country, contains five chapters describing and analyzing its history, society, economy, government and politics and national security. All books in the series are hardbound and contain maps, charts, photographs, tables, chapter bibliographies, a glossary and an index.

During the past several years, more than 1 million copies of the books in the series have been sold, and more than 150,000 copies have been distributed to depository libraries throughout the United States.

A list of books in print in the series is available from the Country Studies Program, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540. To purchase the books, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Titles and stock numbers must be cited when ordering (Austria–$19, 008-020-01345-5; Algeria–$20, 008-020-01344-7). Include check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents. Country studies can also be purchased through the Library of Congress Sales Shop.



From the Koran to Iran-Contra:

Near East Section a Valuable Resource

by Jeanne Smith

Those who, 50 years ago, forecast the growing importance of the Near East were right.

The Near East Section of the Library's African and Middle Eastern Division, founded in the mid-1940s in response to growing U.S. interests and involvement in the Middle East, this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Decoration from the royal edition of *The Shahnameh* (1971) was inspired by the Islamic tradition of geometric, floral and folial designs.

During the last part of this century, the section has provided important information relating to war in the Persian Gulf to the U.S. government, news media and others.

In 1986 a librarian for one of the nation's foremost newspapers asked the Library's Public Affairs Office for help in finding the issue of the Lebanese magazine that first reported secret meetings between U.S. government and Iranian officials that resulted in disclosures leading to the Iran-Contra affair. "I can't find it anywhere," said the librarian.

A call to the Near East Section produced this response from Ibrahim Pourhadi, area specialist in Iranian studies:

"Oh, *al-Shira*. It's here on my desk, would you like a copy?"

But it all began 50 years ago.

Shortly before his death on April 12, 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt met with King Abd al-'Aziz Al Saud, and this event was seen as a symbol of new American interest in and involvement with the Arab and

Islamic worlds. Library officials saw the need for expanded holdings and research resources dealing with this increasingly important part of the world. And so the Near East Section was formally established in what then was called the Orientalia Division, on Aug. 15, 1945, the day after World War II ended with the surrender of Japan.

Although the section is a relative newcomer, in comparison with the Library itself, which will be 200 in 2000, its achievements during the last 50 years are no less notable.

"During its short life, the section was able to build one of the most important collections of books, periodicals and other cultural and documentary resources of the Middle East, including the whole Arab world—Turkey, Central Asia, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia and Georgia," said George Atiyeh, head of the Near East Section since 1967.

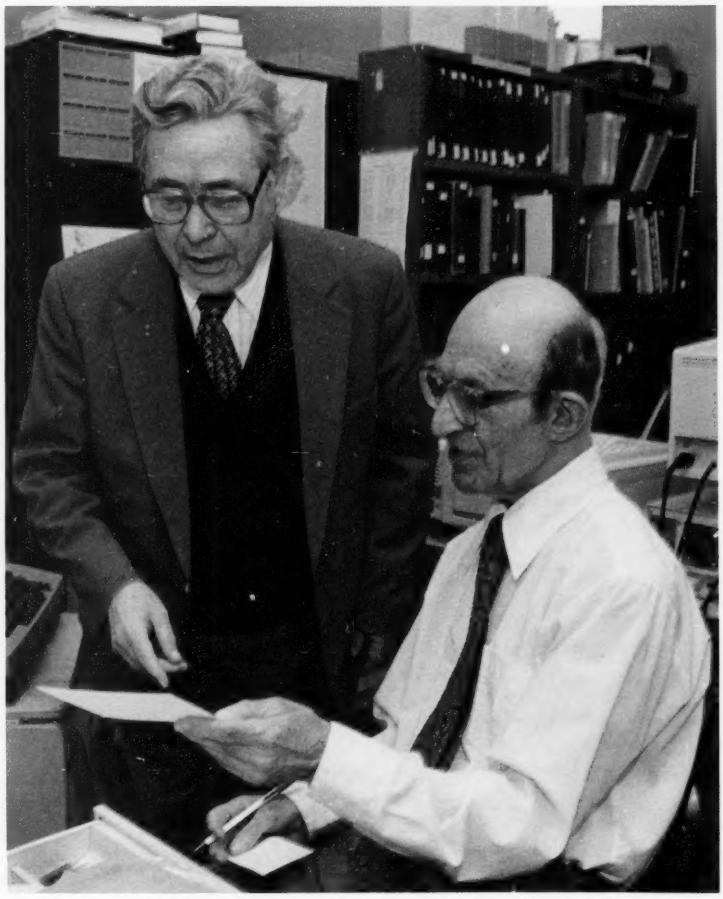
"By so doing, the section has made available to Congress, the American government and to the scholarly community a comprehensive and integrated collection in the languages of the area that has become a primary source of reliable information on the Arabic, Islamic and Caucasian civilizations and societies," he added.

The establishment of the Near East Section coincided with the growth of academic departments and centers of Middle Eastern studies in the United States. Through its cataloging efforts, handled initially in the Near East Section and moved to Processing Services in the early 1950s, the Library continues to help these departments and centers in their own cataloging efforts. And through its field offices in Cairo, Karachi, New Delhi, Nairobi and Jakarta, the Library has been able to asssemble an impressive collection of materials from and about the Islamic world. The section's collection totals about 250,000 items, starting with ancient materials and running through the second book ever published in the Arab world (1706) and the first book published in Arabic script in Iraq in 1830 to newly published books and current issues of newspapers and magazines.

To celebrate the beginning of its second half century, the section is holding a series of public programs that will include lectures focusing on Armenia, April 7 (see story on page 316); Turkey, May 3 (see story on page 317); the Arab world, June 8; and Persian culture, July 14. Planned for Sept. 29 is a seminar on "Arab-American Cultural Relations: Past, Present and Future."

Outreach through public programs and publications is nothing new for the section.

On Nov. 8 and 9, 1990, a standing-room-only crowd of scholars, ambassadors, librarians, journalists and others gathered at the Library for a conference on the "Book in the Islamic World," sponsored by the Near East Section and the Library's Center for the Book. An exhibition of treasures from the Islamic collections was



Jim Higgins

George Atiyeh (left), head of the Near East Section, and Ibrahim Pourhadi, area specialist in Iranian studies, discuss a request from a researcher.

A princess trying to hide her beauty from a charmed prince accompanied by a Pir, or wise man. From a manuscript of poems by Sacdi (d. 1404).

prepared for the conference and remained on display through the end of the year.

Among items on display were an 11th century Koran section written in Kufic script on vellum; examples of fine manuscripts and early imprints from the Bulaq Press in Egypt and the Mutaferrika Press in Istanbul, the first press to publish in Turkish; and samples of calligraphy sheets from Iran, India and North Africa.

Three years ago, according to Levon Avdoyan, Armenian and Georgian studies specialist, the section established a Vardanants Day Armenian lecture series, named for the Armenian holiday that commemorates the battle of Avarayr in 451, in which General Vardan Mamikonian led Armenian forces against Persian troops.

On April 7 Nina Garsoian, Columbia University professor emerita of Armenian and Byzantine studies, gave the third annual Vardanants Day lecture as the first in the section's series of anniversary events. She spoke on "Iranian Elements in Early Armenian Christianity."

The program also honored Marjorie Dadian, a generous supporter of the Library's Armenian collection, who died in 1994. Her gift from the estate of her husband, Arthur Dadian, created the Armenian lecture series.

Among the section's recent publications are *The Book in the Islamic World: The Written Word and Communication in the Middle East,* a collection of papers presented at the 1990 conference, edited by Dr. Atiyeh; *The Holy Koran in the Library of Congress: A Bibliography,* compiled by Fawzi Mikhail Tadros of the section staff; and a series of volumes on *American Doctoral Dissertations on the Arab World* compiled by George Selim of the Near East reference staff. Many other publications deal with the Library's holdings or offer bibliographies of resources for study of Near East nations.

There have been some changes in procedures over the years, and today the Near East Section has responsibility for reference and bibliographic services for Islam; the Arab world, including North Africa, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Malta; and also Armenian and Georgian affairs. It shares responsibility with the European Division for Central Asia and the Caucasus and with the African Section for the Sudan and those sub-Saharan countries that are members of the League of Arab States: Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti.

The section also administers the Library's collections in the some 35 languages of the Near East, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

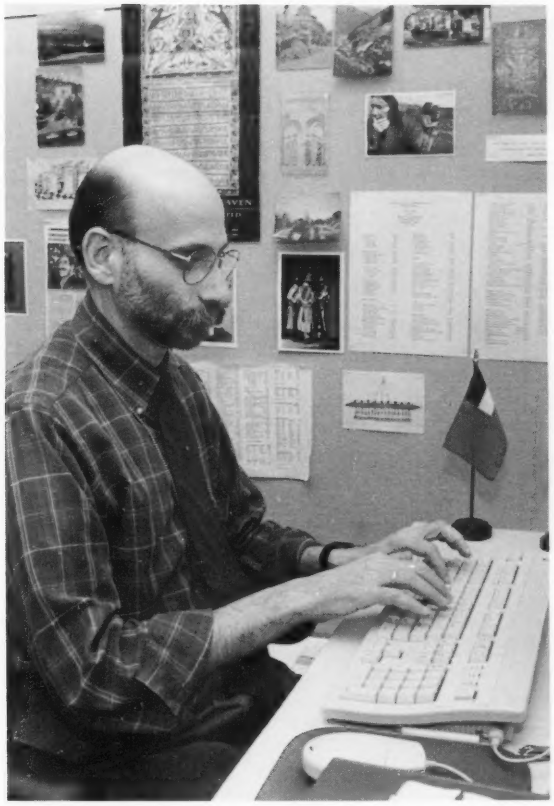
Additions to the collections are constantly sought in all of them. Among some recent acquisitions of note are microfilm of 10,000 documents relating to Americans, dating

(Cont. on p. 315)

Jim Higgins

Near East Section staff (from left): Carol Ido, Ibrahim Pourhadi, George Atiyeh, Ella Arterberry, Christopher Murphy, Levon Avdoyan, Fawzi Tadros and Faris Hamarneh

Title page and opening (above) of the Koran, printed in Saudi Arabia in the King Fahd Special Center for the Printing of Islam's Holy Book; Fawzi Tadros (left) of the Near East Section assists an unidentified reader; Levon Avdoyan (opposite), the Armenian and Georgian area specialist, makes plans for a lecture; last page of the *Kitab al-Injil al-tahir*. Dated 1706, it was the second book printed in Arabic script movable type; Ella Arterberry, George Atiyeh (right) and Ibrahim Pourhadi discuss the art in a painted book by Azzawi from the Near East collection.



Near East *(Cont. from p. 313)*
from 1691 to 1894, from the Office of the Prime Minister of Turkey; *Tuhfat'l Mu'minin*, a manuscript copy of a famous Persian-language treatise on substances for use in medical preparations, presented to the Library by Ruth Karlinger; and the third volume of *Biblia Arabica Sacra* (Rome, 1761) completing the Library's set of this important work that became the basis for subsequent Arabic editions of the Bible.

The support staff in the section, including Karam Habashy, Carol Ido, Faris Hamarneh and Ella Arterberry, has been instrumental in maintaining and organizing this diversified collection.

—Jeanne Smith is a public affairs specialist in the Public Affairs Office.

Third Armenian Lecture:

Iran's Influence on Early Christian Armenia

The third Vardanants Day Armenian lecture at the Library on April 7 focused on an often neglected aspect of Armenian history and culture – the role of the Iranian East.

Vardanants Day, celebrated in February, commemorates the battle fought in 451 against Persians who tried (in vain) to impose Zoroastrianism on Christian Armenia.

"Iranian Elements in Early Christian Armenia" was presented by Nina Garsoian, professor emerita of Armenian history and Byzantine studies at Columbia University.

"All that I wish to attempt here is to reestablish the cultural balance through a brief and necessarily oversimplified survey of the clearly attested, if largely neglected, contribution of Iran in the development of early Christian Armenia," she said.

Armenia's culture, she argued, achieved equilibrium with the Mediterranean West and Iranian East. Armenia served as a buffer zone, in addition, for cultural transmission between the two areas.

"Not only the vocabulary and the basic institutions of early Christian Armenia, but the symbolism and ideology of this society, deeply and explicitly devoted to Christianity, remained nevertheless permeated by purely Iranian elements," Dr. Garsoian said.

Using Armenian texts and slides of Iranian artifacts, Dr. Garsoian sketched the influence of Iran in the lands of the Armenians. She then turned her attention to the legend of Armenia's conversion to Christianity during the early fourth century.

Central to the legend is the story of the execution of the holy Christian virgin martyrs who had fled the pagan Roman Emperor Diocletian and sought refuge with the king of the Armenians, Tiridates III. In love with the martyrs and rejected by one of them, he had them all put to death. For this sin, he was turned into a wild boar.

"Then entering a reedy place, in senseless abandon he pastured on grass, and wallowed naked in the plain," said the fifth century *History of Armenia*. Fifteen years later, after listening to the preaching of his former adviser, Gregory, later revered as St. Gregory the Illuminator, Tiridates is baptized, declares Christianity the religion of his state and becomes human once more.

Using Armenian and Iranian works of art from the early medieval period, Dr. Garsoian displayed the iconography of Tiridates's altered state, which always included the snout of a wild boar. Reading text that paralleled the imagery of the Zoroastrian texts, she described Vahagn, the Armenian counterpart to the Iranian god Verethragna, who appeared "in the shape of a wild, aggressive, male boar."

Dr. Garsoian related the story of the reeds through which Tiridates wallowed to Iranian iconography that has always been associated with Verethragna and was also reflected in Armenian accounts of the birth of Vahagn.

She concluded that it is "Vahagn himself, born of the flaming reed, who participates in Tiridates's punishment." For the Christian followers of this myth, then, "the king receives the punishment suited to his crime." she said. He was changed into the form of Vahagn, the symbol of the hated religion of Zoroastrianism.

Thus, Tiridates's conversion from Zoroastrianism to Christianity "is comprehensible only against the background of a knowledge of Zoroastrian beliefs," she said.

Dr. Garsoian is a professor emerita of Armenian history and Byzantine studies at Columbia University, editor of the *Revue des études arméniennes* and fellow of the Medieval Academy.

Her publications and lectures, said Levon Avdoyan, Armenian and

Jim Higgins

Beverly Gray (left), African and Middle Eastern Division chief, and George Atiyeh, Near East Section chief, discuss Armenia with speaker Nina G. Garsoian, professor emerita of Armenian history and Byzantine studies at Columbia University.

Georgian area specialist at the Library, "all display her hallmarks – meticulous research, vigorous analysis and brilliant synthesis. In all her works, she has sought to unravel the complex strands of Armenian history and its interrelationships with neighboring lands in the ancient and Byzantine periods, only to construct a plausible explanation of its historical, religious and cultural past."

The Vardanants Day Armenian lecture, sponsored by the Near East Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division, was also the first of a series of events, titled "Oriens Illustratus: Programs for the Near East Section at Fifty," and was dedicated to the memory of Marjorie Dadian, whose death last summer deprived the Library of one of its devoted patrons.

Suzanne Thorin, chief of staff, read a message from Dr. Billington, welcoming the audience and paying tribute to both the Near East Section and the role of Armenia in its affairs. "I must also, however, add a personal note," he said, "of loss on the death of Mrs. Marjorie Dadian, whose gift from her husband's estate allowed us and the Near East Section to rededicate our efforts to the collection and preservation of Armenian-language materials at the Library."

An important force in Armenian materials collection was the Dadian committee, which was organized in the 1940s at the Library.

"Just at the time the section was being established in the 1940s and a greater awareness was developing in the United States of the importance of the Near East, a group of Armenian Americans, under the leadership of Mrs. Dadian's husband, Arthur, set on a mission to help develop the Armenian collections at the Library of Congress," according to George Atiyeh, head of the Near East Section for the past 27 years.

Dr. Avdoyan also paid tribute to Mrs. Dadian. "I was immediately

(Cont. on p. 327)

Social Reality:
Islam's Importance in Turkey

In the second in a series of programs commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Near East Section, the focus was on the importance of Islam in modern Turkey.

On May 3 Serif Mardin, chairman of Islamic Studies at American University, spoke on "Some Approaches to the Social Reality of Modern Turkish Intellectuals."

Dr. Mardin prefers to use a "micro" point of view, focusing on the individual, while most of his colleagues use a broader approach. For Dr. Mardin "macro" analysis is too impersonal.

He said that those social scientists who insist on the broader approach are "victims of a historical tradition" established by Ataturk (1881–1938) for Turkish intellectuals, when he made them watchmen of the state. Thus "Turkish intellectual thinking is and has always been locked into the preservation of the state."

He suggested that, instead of studying an entire social class, his colleagues "rent a room in a small village" and learn how to interact with the individual. He asserted that this is the best way to study a society.

In Dr. Mardin's book "The Genesis of Young Ottoman Thought," he concluded that Ottoman officials' preoccupation with the preservation of the state influenced historians as well as government officials.

The Turkish state of yesterday, according to Dr. Mardin, was more flexible than today's.

When Dr. Mardin began the study of Islam, it became "a kind of structure, a bridge between the preservation of the state and the preservation of the rights of the individual." He charged many social scientists with viewing religion as a "surface" factor, rather than "the link between the structure of the Ottoman Empire and its culture."

"By neglecting Islam, the Turkish republic has created a void for intellectuals," he claimed.

But, according to Dr. Mardin, the situation in Turkey is changing. As a result of recent elections, the

(Cont. on p. 327)

Jim Higgins

Discussing the lecture with speaker Serif Mardin (center) are Ottoman scholars Yvonne Seng and Roderic Davison.

The Fifth Carl Schurz Lecture:
Defining Moments in German-American Relations

"Defining moments" in German-American relations was the topic of the Carl Schurz lecture, delivered May 18 at the Library by Charles Maier, an internationally recognized authority on European studies.

"Fifty Years On: Defining Moments in the German-American Partnership," was the fifth lecture in the Carl Schurz Lecture Series, established in 1989 in cooperation with the German-American Cultural Fund of Washington to honor German-born Schurz (1829–1906), who was a U.S. Senator (R-Mo., 1869–1875), secretary of the interior in 1877–1881 (the first foreign-born Cabinet member in 70 years), a journalist, abolitionist and advocate of civil service reform.

Prosser Gifford, the Library's director of Scholarly Programs, provided the opening remarks for Dr. Billington and also acknowledged the efforts of Margrit B. Krewson, German/Dutch area specialist, for her work not only in organizing the Schurz series but also other Library events relating to Germany and its culture.

Dr. Gifford introduced Dr. Lothar Griessbach, president of the German-American Cultural Fund, who introduced the speaker.

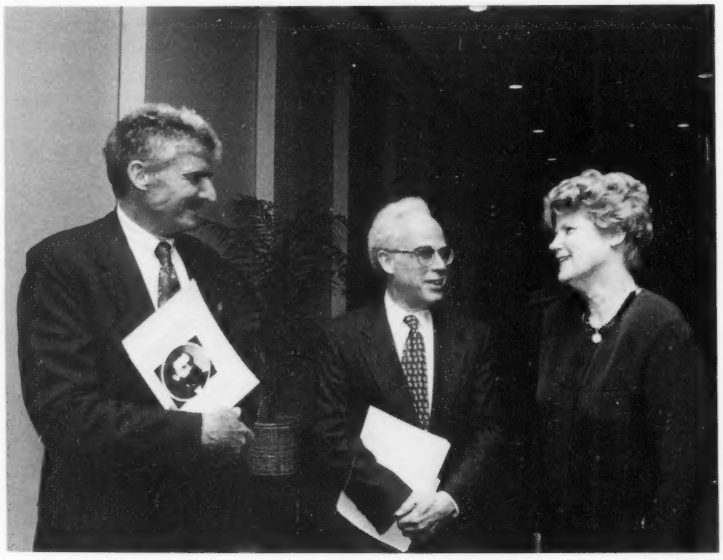
Dr. Maier is Krupp Foundation Professor of European Studies and director of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. His book *Recasting Bourgeois Europe* was nominated for the National Book Award and won two prizes from the American Historical Association in 1976. He is working on a new book, *The End of East Germany,* which will be published by Princeton University Press.

Calling V-E Day, May 8, 1945, "the initiation of a process and not an end," Dr. Maier said that "the beginning in this case [was] Germany's remarkable postwar recovery and a half-century partnership with the United States."

Dr. Maier traced the course of the German-American relationship through the interactions of important German and American leaders of the last half century. "I think it most helpful to view the German-American relationship in terms of interactions between leaders who together revealed the strengths and pitfalls of the evolving partnership, five German-American 'couples,' so to speak," said Dr. Maier.

In the early 1950s, American statesman John McCloy and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer were both working toward the creation of a stable democracy in Germany. According to Dr. Maier, "John McCloy served Adenauer's agenda well, for it coincided with his own objective, which was both to encourage Germany to build a responsible and autonomous national political life—and simultaneously to tie it firmly to the West."

A decade and a half later, President Lyndon Johnson "sought to exercise . . . remarkable personal diplomacy" over German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, said Dr. Maier, who recounted how when Erhard visited LBJ at his ranch photographs showed the chancellor in a Stetson hat. He also told "the wonderful, if apocryphal," story that when Erhard was at the ranch, he had asked, "Is it true, Mr. President, that you were born in a log cabin?" To which LBJ replied, "No, Abe Lincoln was born in a log cabin. I was born in a manger."



Jim Higgins

Charles Maier (center), an internationally recognized authority on European studies, exchanges observations about German-American relations with Prosser Gifford, director of Scholarly Programs for the Library, and Margrit Krewson, German/Dutch area specialist.

Characterizing Erhard and LBJ as an "odd couple," Dr. Maier assessed their interaction as being "less consequential for the long-term" German-American relationship. "Essentially Johnson left Europe to his ambassador and White House staff."

Dr. Maier was kinder to his next pairing: Henry Kissinger and Chancellor Willy Brandt. He called both "remarkable" men, who, although they "saw politics in different ways . . . their respective priorities at least ran in parallel and allowed success for each."

For America's policy of détente with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to work, the East German-West German détente also had to succeed, said Dr. Maier. Kissinger's "own détente policies could not have advanced without some demobilization of the German-German confrontation," he said.

Dr. Maier believes that the Kissinger-Brandt relationship yielded "a significant series of advances which both Americans and West Germans might be credited for alike. Thus a treaty structure ultimately emerged," culminating in the formation of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The next set of leaders, President Jimmy Carter and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, fared poorly, in Dr. Maier's opinion. "Of all the odd couples considered tonight, this relationship proved the most frustrating and unproductive," he said. The speaker placed much of the blame for this failure on the leaders' personalities. While Carter was "preoccupied by detail," Schmidt "understood how to isolate the grand lines of politics. Carter had a moralistic streak. . . . For Schmidt, the emphasis on human rights testified to the inexperience and provincialism of the American administration."

It took President George Bush and Chancellor Helmut Kohl to restore smoother U.S.-German relations. According to Dr. Maier, Bush "was willing to trust Kohl to the utmost and to second his call for quick unification in 1990. "In this case," he added, "German and American agendas did not merely run parallel; they were congruent. White House policy saw German unification as the fulfillment of a long-maintained U.S. policy."

Dr. Maier summed up, saying, "The German-American relationship must enter a new phase, not one perhaps of less mutual need or less mutual friendship, but one more normal and subject to political conflicts. The last 50 years allowed a degree of German-American cooperation which, for all its transitory vicissitudes, was extraordinarily easy." —*Guy Lamolinara*

Jim Higgins

Listening to the lecture were Minister Thomas Matussek (left) of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington, and Margrit Krewson.

ON-LINE PUBLICATION

Selected Engineering Information Resources

The Science and Technology Division announced an addition to its *Select List* series, *Selected Engineering Information Resources* (SL94-1) is now available on the Internet.

The engineering information resources are those registered in the National Referral Center Masterfile, a database of schools, libraries, state and federal government agencies, commercial groups and associations.

Records contain the name, address and phone number of the source, plus data on subject specialization.

Because of length, the publication is not available in print. Electronic access is through a gopher client or server by pointing to **marvel.loc.gov, port 70.** Select item 13, and search for "Select Engineering."

Post-Cold War Testament:
Former Spy Chronicles KGB Operations in Poland

Five years ago, Michael Szporer, the son of a defector wanted by the Polish political police, would never have believed he would be introducing former KGB spy and Major General Oleg Kalugin to a Library audience on May Day.

But, in a testimony to the end of the Cold War era, that is exactly what he did in a lecture sponsored by the Library of Congress Professional Association Polish Language Table in cooperation with Catholic University of America. Dr. Szporer, of the Copyright office, heads the language table along with Ronald Bachman of the European Division.

Mr. Kalugin spoke to an overflow audience on "Solidarity, the Vatican, and the Collapse of the Soviet Empire." As a spy for the KGB, he had been sent to Poland in the early 1980s to undermine the Solidarity union movement and the powerful influence of the Vatican over the Polish people.

"Poland was the weakest link in the Warsaw Pact," Mr. Kalugin said. "We knew that if Poland broke away, the damage would be contagious, with other countries falling like dominos," he said.

Poles had resisted Soviet pressure since the end of World War II when the country fell into Soviet orbit. Polish workers had rioted in 1956, and again in the ports during the 1970s, when the Soviets raised prices and changed salary levels. The Polish people also challenged the Soviets by not collectivizing agriculture, he said. Poles always looked to the West and to the Vatican.

He said that when the Soviets directed the Polish government to restrain the resistance movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s, some Polish Communist police agents deliberately underestimated the strength of the opposition movement. They told the Soviets that there were only a few dissidents.

Yusef El-Amin

Former KGB Maj. Gen. Oleg Kalugin

"But all you had to do was look into the faces of the workers at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk to realize the situation," Mr. Kalugin said.

But the KGB was not fooled. Back in Moscow, he added, after Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected as pope in 1979, Soviet officials were aware that the resistance movement was really much larger than Polish police agents had told them.

Mr. Kalugin said three characteristics of Polish national character—pride, reckless independence and a refusal to submit—strengthened the resistance movement. The Poles also listened to Radio Free Europe and had contact with relatives and friends living abroad.

The Soviet Union could not win their allegiance, but also could not risk another Afghanistan debacle, he said. The Soviet Union had a fragile détente with the United States that it needed to preserve. U.S. sanctions had begun to affect the Soviet economy. The Soviet policy was to encourage the Polish forces to restore order and threaten to crush the resistance if Polish Communist leaders did not, he said.

"In a 1981 Warsaw Pact meeting, the Poles were told to put their house in order and stop the counterrevolution," Mr. Kalugin said. He said that the declaration of martial law in 1981 by Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, secretary of the Polish Communist Party, was orchestrated from Moscow to crush the initial outbreak of Solidarity.

But he added that when Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko went to Poland in 1981, it had become obvious the Poles would not heed the warning. The Soviets felt they had to do something to tarnish the image of the Vatican.

Ninety-five percent of the Polish people were Catholic—even Communist officials. He said that when Cardinal Wojtyla became pope, the

balance of power had shifted away from the Soviet sphere of influence toward the Vatican. "In Moscow, Russian officials understood that the pope was a very cohesive force," he said.

By 1985 the emergence of Mikhail Gorbachev's initiatives of *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (restructuring), coupled with the Afghanistan failure, led to a shift in focus away from Poland toward internal Soviet affairs, he said. "Poland began to be handled with kid gloves, as its leaders were welcomed in Moscow on a more equal footing," Mr. Kalugin said.

When Poland elected Lech Walesa, the former leader of the Solidarity movement, as president in 1989, Moscow was too busy with East-West relations to deal with the no-win Poland situation, he said. Soviet military intervention in Poland was out of the question because armed resistance was expected. The opposition was too big and vocal to be easily silenced, Mr. Kalugin said.

People inside the Soviet Union knew that the only way the restructuring movement could succeed was to eliminate one pillar of communism—the secret police. Gorbachev eventually realized the KGB must be dissolved, which is what Mr. Kalugin said he had known since 1987.

When he opted out in 1989, Mr. Kalugin, the youngest KGB general in Soviet history, was stripped of his rank and privileges, but was still able to work for democratic reforms, he said.

In 1991 Mr. Kalugin was elected a People's Deputy to the Russian Parliament, where he witnessed the transfer of power from Gorbachev, then general secretary of the Communist Party, to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Kalugin said that history will eventually prove that Gorbachev was a great man who gave his country a political, social and economic opening to the world. Until the end, he said, Gorbachev had hoped to reform the system from the inside out. What failed him, Mr. Kalugin said, was his indecisiveness.

He gave a different assessment of the current Russian leader. "Yeltsin, who we thought would do better, is power thirsty," said Mr. Kalugin. "He is not really a democrat and has his own agenda."

According to Mr. Kalugin, few of the Russian people now have faith in their leaders or in any government system. He said that the people are demoralized by an economy in shambles. There is no danger of a return to communism, he said, but because people perceive they are worse off now than before, a more authoritarian system may creep in. Mr. Kalugin said he doubted that Mr. Yeltsin would allow elections to take place.

"What is better?" asked Mr. Kalugin. "Money with nothing to buy, or no money and lots to buy?"

Under communism, people had little incentive to work hard. Mr. Kalugin said he now sees a new spirit under which eventually people will gain a work ethic and democratic reforms will take hold, but the transition will take at least a decade.

Although he is currently teaching at Catholic University, Mr. Kalugin, author of *The First Directorate*, a memoir of a spy who provides a detailed picture of the inner workings of the KGB, hopes to return to Russia soon to decide whether to run for office.

Asked if he had any remorse for his actions in the KGB, Mr. Kalugin said he regretted having wasted his life, but now hoped to have an opportunity to make democracy a reality in his country. —*Joan Weeks*

Joan Weeks is a public affairs specialist with the National Reference Service.

MEETINGS

The Council of National Library and Information Associations held its final meeting May 5 in New York.

Since the previous meeting in December, when the future of the council had been discussed, the member associations had been polled about possible dissolution of the organization because it was unable to undertake new initiatives to justify its continued existence.

Based on the poll results, attendees of the May meeting approved a suggestion of the CNLIA board of directors to dissolve the council.

Founded in 1942, CNLIA made a series of significant accomplishments. Among them were the initiation of the Bowker Annual, a compendium of information for librarians, publishers and information specialists. The CNLIA also served as secretariat of the Z39 Committee of the American National Standards Institute, which developed worldwide standards for library practice, including the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) giving each publication a distinctive serial number. The council also revived publication in 1966 and 1970 of *Who's Who in Library and Information Services*, an occasional biographical directory of United States and Canadian library professionals.

—*Theodore Wiener*

Theodore Wiener is a senior cataloger in the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division. He attended the meeting as a councilor for the Association of Jewish Libraries.

Herman Wouk Donates Five Historical Novels

Symposium on His Birthday Explores the Genre

Herman Wouk came to the Library May 15 to do three things: donate the manuscripts of his five historical novels to the Library, participate in a symposium on the historical novel and celebrate his 80th birthday.

Mr. Wouk gave the manuscripts for *Winds of War, War and Remembrance, Inside Outside, The Hope* and *The Glory* to the Library along with diaries documenting his progress on each.

In thanking Mr. Wouk for the materials during a luncheon, the Librarian of Congress credited him with "reestablishing the historical novel as an important way to understand the world, the sweep of events and the interaction of people with them."

John Cole, director of the Center for the Book, which arranged the day's events, said Mr. Wouk's donation of "work journals documenting his progress on the novels gives us unique insight into the creative process. They will be a valuable resource for future researchers."

The theme of two of the novels, *Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance* is "global war and at the white hot center of the war, the destruction of the European Jews, of several million of my people. My grief was the driving force in the work that I did," said Mr. Wouk, who was accompanied by his wife and agent, Betty Sarah Wouk.

Mr. Wouk was born on May 27, 1915, in New York to Russian Jewish parents who emigrated from Minsk. He attended public schools in the Bronx and graduated from Columbia University, where he edited the undergraduate literary magazine. With Mark Twain as his idol, he "batted away" at jokes for radio comedian Fred Allen from 1936 to 1941. In June 1941, he moved to Washington, D.C., to write radio spots for the war bond sale. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he joined the Navy and took part in eight Pacific invasions aboard a destroyer-minesweeper, earning several battle stars.

At sea he dreamed of writing a great book about the war. Afterward, he went back to New York and wrote *City Boy* and *Marjorie Morningstar*, "two books to make you laugh with truthful stories." But he hit his stride with *The Caine Mutiny*, he said. "I discovered narrative power and serious themes like the limit of authority versus the instinct of freedom that every American has," said Mr. Wouk.

He explained that as he neared his 50s, he had come "up against what Henrik Ibsen calls the 'life lie.' The thing that each man and woman has in his mind that a life will get organized and a good or great thing will be done which will justify one's self image."

"I knew there was no alternative but to study history," continued Mr. Wouk. He started with Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*. "Nothing is more powerful than the conflict of states and nations if they are focused and made alive [with characters] and if the figures are delineated with sharpness."

He went on to read World War II books by Winston Churchill, and then turned to Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* for a model. "He made history live in such an enormous panorama by stretching the canvas of Napoleon's invasion of Russia on a romantic story," Mr. Wouk said.

In 1964, Mr. Wouk moved to Washington to be near the Library, where he was given an office. He traveled extensively, studying about the destruction of the European Jews. He concluded: "Either war is finished or we are," a theme he personified in Victor (Pug) Henry, the

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In his office before the symposium, Dr. Billington thanks Herman Wouk for his donation to the Library of his five historical novels.

main character of *War and Remembrance.*

The book was made into a TV series aired by ABC in 1988–1989. During the symposium, a 12-minute clip was shown. It was three scenes leading up to the death of one of the main characters at Auschwitz. It showed how the Jews got off the train and were divided into two groups by a gestapo. He pointed with his thumb where they were to go: those on his right to a refugee camp, those on his left to be gassed in the "showers." The expressions on the actors' faces were wrenching, and after the screening, many people in the audience were crying.

David McCullough (*Truman*) was near tears himself as he began to speak. "What we've just seen has to do with grief, and grief is a story," said Mr. McCullough. Mr. McCullough and other speakers described how details, word choice and research are raw materials that combine to make a successful historical novel.

Details were mentioned by Jean Ashton, director of the Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library, to which Mr. Wouk has donated the manuscripts of his earlier books. "I have always been amazed by the resource that allows the writer to choose details that make it seem accurate," said Ms. Ashton. They draw from "letters, documents, ephemera that bear jottings from the midst of battle, or a moment of quiet. . . ."

Yusef El-Amin

John Cole (left), director of the Center for the Book, greets David McCullough, the biographer of Harry Truman.

Yusef El-Amin

Peter Braestrup (left), director of communications for the Library, discusses Mr. Wouk's historical novels with political commentator Daniel Schorr.

The Manuscript Division at the Library has many primary materials from the World War II era, including 25,000 items from Gen. George Patton and several hundred more from ordinary soldiers, said Alice Birney, the division's American literature specialist.

Details are worked into a historical novel by careful word choice, said Mary Lee Settle, author of *Beulah Quintet* and *O Beulah Land.* She read hundreds of pre-1774 manuscripts to learn the vocabulary appropriate for her mid-18th century characters. "Many were unedited, misspelled tracts, so thank God I could hear the language," she said.

The importance of accurate detail also was addressed by Christopher Collier, the state historian of Connecticut and a professor at the University of Connecticut. "There is nothing worse than somebody in the French and Indian War looking at his wristwatch," said Mr. Collier,

who writes historical fiction for students ages 11–16.

The importance of thorough research was discussed by George Garrett, who spent 30 years writing three historical novels. He said he allowed himself to elaborate on events only after he confirmed there were no conflicting accounts.

Details, word choice and research were thus explained in a series of panels titled "Sources and Resources for Historical Fiction," "The Historical Novel in Literature and Society" and "History and the Novel."

In the fourth panel, "Historical Fiction in the Marketplace," the audience of 150 historians, writers and researchers got a definition of a historical novel from William D. Phillips, editor in chief of Little, Brown and Co. "A historical novel is one in which recounting history is the spine . . . the structure on which it is built. It is a carefully researched history lesson. It is not a period setting as a backdrop to a story, nor a rickety stage for modern sensibilities and melodrama," he said.

Mr. Phillips and others on the marketing panel said historical novels are not currently popular. But Simon Michael Bessie, a publisher who has his own imprint, Bessie Books (and is chairman of the Library's Center for the Book), put the matter in perspective by saying: "When I first came into publishing, one of the things I was told in late 1946 was that historical novels don't sell. That's the year that Pantheon published a [historical novel by] Mary Renault, which was followed a little while later on that same small list by *Dr. Zhivago.*"

The question everyone was waiting for was asked, and answered, by *New York Times* columnist William Safire. "Why is historical fiction so popular with readers and unpopular with scholars and critics? The scholars and critics are jealous. They don't have the freedom that the novelist . . . has."

Librarian Emeritus Daniel J. Boorstin elaborated: "The historian must invite the willing suspension of belief to help the reader imagine that it could have been otherwise, while the novelist encounters the reader's disbelief and must invite his acquiescence that the novelist's account is a tale of what really happened."

Martin Gilbert, Winston Churchill's biographer, asked whether a novelist "could ever do anything but distort the past with spurious images and false impressions," but went on to praise Mr. Wouk, noting that in the forthcoming 15th volume of his Churchill biography, a conversation appears "of which [Mr. Wouk] could not have known, but somehow he did."

"He has followed the precept of Simon Dubenow, a Jewish historian who, before he was shot by a death squad in Riga, said 'shveybt und vershveybt,' write and record."

Praise for Herman Wouk's work came from Mr. Safire, who called him "this century's Dickens"; Mr. McCullough, who called him a "true patriot"; and from LBJ biographer Robert Caro, who said, "Likely more Americans have learned about the war through Mr. Wouk's account than from any other place."

Mr. Wouk, who spoke during a dessert of birthday cake after the symposium, said he was overwhelmed by the praise. "I don't know how far I succeeded, but I say before you and before God, 'I tried.'" He added that he is not done writing and plans to collaborate with songwriter Jimmy Buffett on a musical rendition of one of Mr. Wouk's early novels, *Don't Stop the Carnival.*

The Center for the Book plans to publish the proceedings, including full texts of the panelists' speeches. For information, contact the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540–8200.

–Yvonne French

Yusef El-Amin

Dr. Billington and Robert Caro, the biographer of Lyndon Baines Johnson, talk about future Library programs during a luncheon before the symposium.

News from the Center for the Book:

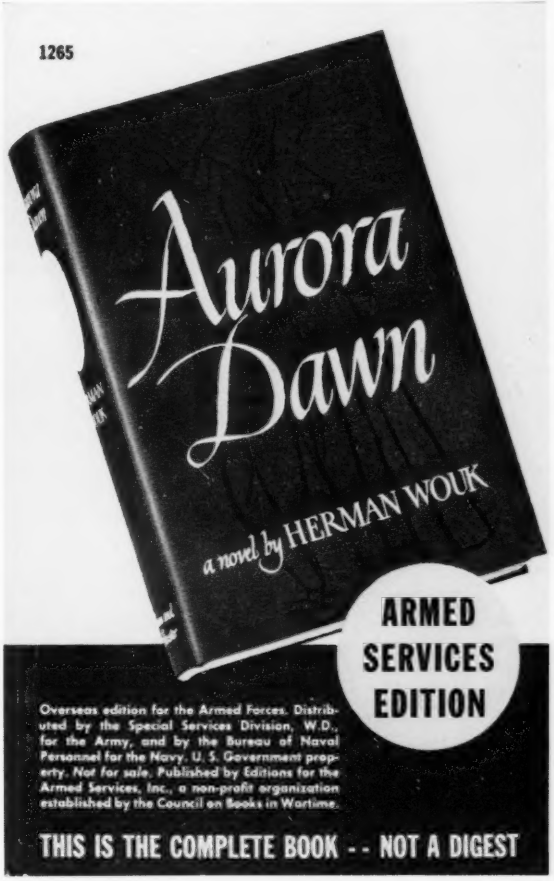
$50,000 Donation to Support Reading Promotion Projects

The H.W. Wilson Foundation will donate $50,000 to the Center for the Book to support "Shape Your Future—Read!," the center's 1995–1996 national reading promotion campaign.

"We are grateful to the H.W. Wilson Foundation for this gift and for its loyal support of the Center for the Book's program during the past decade," said John Y. Cole, the center's director. "The Center for the Book is a partnership between the government and the private sector; each year we depend on donors such as the H.W. Wilson Foundation to support our projects in Washington and throughout the nation."

The Center for the Book was established by Public Law 95–129, which was approved by President Jimmy Carter in 1977 and authorized the Librarian of Congress to "receive money and other property donated, bequeathed, or devised" to support the center's program.

Early contributors included the Book-of-the-Month Club, Mrs. Charles Engelhard, Clare Boothe Luce, McGraw-Hill, Macmillan, Charles Scribner's Sons, Time-Life Books and Barbara Tuchman. In addition to the H.W. Wilson Foundation, annual contributors in recent years include the Annenberg Foundation, the Association of American Publishers, Baker & Taylor, Bantam Doubleday Dell, Barnes & Noble, Blackwell North America, Daniel J. and Ruth Boorstin, Arthur Brody, R.R. Donnelley & Sons, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Robert Frase, Harper Collins, Hearst Books, Pizza Hut, Random House, Reed Reference Publishing, Simon & Schuster, Thomson Newspapers, University Microfilms, John Velde Jr., Waldenbooks and John Wiley & Sons.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Aurora Dawn
a novel by HERMAN WOUK
ARMED SERVICES EDITION
Overseas edition for the Armed Forces. Distributed by the Special Services Division, W.D., for the Army, and by the Bureau of Naval Personnel for the Navy. U. S. Government property. Not for sale. Published by Editions for the Armed Services, Inc., a non-profit organization established by the Council on Books in Wartime.
THIS IS THE COMPLETE BOOK -- NOT A DIGEST

Herman Wouk's first novel, *Aurora Dawn*, a May 1947 selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, was also published as an Armed Services Edition.

Another 200 individuals made personal, tax-deductible donations of $25 or more to the center in 1994. For information, write or call the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540–8200, (202) 707–5221.

☐ **Herman Wouk Symposium on Historical Fiction.** On May 15 the Center for the Book sponsored a symposium honoring Herman Wouk (see p. 322). According to John Cole, the center was especially pleased to sponsor the Wouk symposium, since Mr. Wouk was both a longtime supporter of the Center for the Book and "a writer whose popularity and wide-ranging choice of subjects have led many people into the world of books."

Dr. Cole first met Mr. Wouk at an early meeting of the Center for the Book's National Advisory Board, when Mr. Wouk stated his interest in the center but explained he had to be excused from attending any meetings because he was too busy writing. At the time he was finishing *War and Remembrance*, which was published in 1978.

For the center's 1983 symposium marking the 40th anniversary of the Armed Services Editions paperback series, Mr. Wouk did provide a letter describing the circumstances of the publication of his first novel, *Aurora Dawn* ("a sin of my youth"), as an Armed Services Edition. Dr. Cole noted that

not only had many Americans gained much of their knowledge of World War II from Wouk's novels *Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance,* but that the books also were popular with professional historians; both were cited as "favorite novels about the United States" in a 1993 survey conducted by the Organization of American Historians.

☐ **New Book Announced.** Conari Press of Emeryville, Calif., has announced publication of *Dear Author: Students Write About the Books that Changed Their Lives,* with an introduction by Lois Lowry. The book is a selection of prize-winning letters submitted by students to the "Letters About Literature" essay contest sponsored annually by the Center for the Book and Weekly Reader's *READ* magazine, in cooperation with the state centers for the book. A portion of the profits from the book, which sells for $9.95, will be donated to the Center for the Book. For information, call Conari Press, (800) 685-9595.

☐ **North Dakota Honors "Letters About Literature" Winners.** The North Dakota Center for the Book honored the state's "Letters About Literature" winners at an awards ceremony at the North Dakota State Library on May 2. The North Dakota center was one of 12 state centers participating in the contest, which is open to students in grades six through 10, and cosponsored with *READ* magazine. Participants were asked to write a letter to their favorite author, describing how that writer's work had changed their thinking. Nationally, more than 10,000 students participated in 1994; 255 of those entries came from North Dakota.

The winners received plaques presented by North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction Wayne Sanstead. The first winner was Sean O'Brien from Hughes Junior High School in Bismarck,

NORTH DAKOTA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

who also received $100 for his letter to author Barbara Joosee about his reaction to her book *The Pitiful Life of Simon Schulz.* The second and third place winners were Kelly Eckart, also a Hughes student, and Danielle Miller from Page Public School, Page, N.D. Eleven students received honorable mention awards.

On March 29 the North Dakota center hosted a luncheon honoring Larry Woiwode, who was designated Poet Laureate of North Dakota on March 9 by North Dakota's 54th Legislative Assembly.

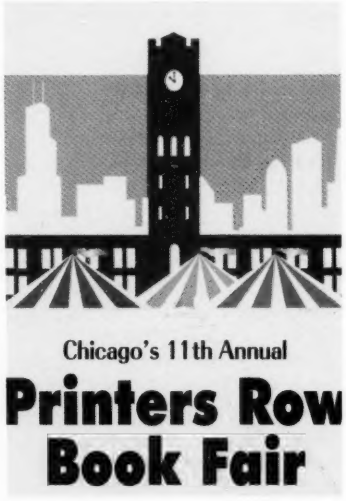
For information about the activities of the North Dakota Center for the Book, write or call executive director Dianne Aull, 604 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505-0800, (701) 328-1303.

☐ **Nebraska Announces Festival.** The fifth annual Nebraska Literature Festival, a project of the Nebraska Center for the Book, will be held in Kearney on the campus of the University of Nebraska on Sept. 23.

Events will include presentations about Nebraska authors; a panel on publishing in Nebraska; workshops on poetry, fiction, the personal essay and genealogy/family stories; readings by contemporary Nebraska authors; a book fair; a special "school day" on Sept. 22, which will be limited to 150 students and teachers; an awards luncheon; and a special 4:30-8:30 p.m. presentation: *Upward and Outward: Voices of Color in Nebraska,* the Literature Festival's first celebration of Nebraska's Native American, Hispanic and African American heritage.

Advance registration is $15. For information and reservations, call the Kearney Community Theatre, (308) 234-1529. For information about the Nebraska Center for the Book and its newsletter, *NCB Quarterly,* write the Lincoln City Libraries, 136 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508.

☐ **Illinois Literary Heritage Award.** John Cole was a speaker on June 3 in Chicago at the presentation of the first Illinois Heritage Award, a project of the Illinois Center for the Book. Presented on the first day of the Printers Row Book Fair, the award went to poet and essayist John Knoepfle for his outstanding contribution "in promoting literature written by Illinois authors or focusing on the Prairie State."



Mr. Knoepfle, who retired in 1991 after a teaching career at Sangamon State University, has written more than 20 books, including *Poems from the Sangamon* (1985), which soon will be reprinted by the University of Illinois Press.

At the ceremony, Dr. Cole also helped unveil a colorful new

The Nebraska Center for the Book
an affiliate of the Library of Congress

"Illinois Authors" poster, which includes Mr. Knoepfle's name and those of 112 other Illinois authors. The poster was developed by the Illinois State Library in cooperation with the Illinois Center for the Book, the Illinois Association of Teachers of English, the Illinois Arts Council and Illinois Writers Inc.

For information, write or call the Illinois Center for the Book, 300 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701, (217) 524–8835.

Armenian Lecture *(Cont. from p. 317)* struck by her integrity and her joyful interest in all things at the Library of Congress," he said.

Dr. Avdoyan also thanked Mrs. Rouben Gavoor for the gift of her late husband's notes and records while secretary of the Dadian committee. —*Levon Avdoyan*

Turkish Lecture *(Cont. from p. 317)* modern Turkish secular state is no longer an enemy of Islam. Today Turkey is more sympathetic to its past.

Deputy Librarian of Congress Hiram L. Davis introduced the program, and Christopher Murphy, the Library's Turkish area specialist, spoke about the Library's Turkish collection. Calling it the largest and most comprehensive of its kind in the United States, he said the collection began with a gift in 1894 of 402 volumes from the Ottoman government. Today, the collection comprises approximately 40,000 bound volumes in two major areas: the first includes about 30,000 volumes of modern Turkish books and periodicals; the second, nearly 10,000 items from the Ottoman-Turkish Empire. The Library's general collections and the special-format divisions also hold important related materials, including 56 albums of photographs of the Ottoman Empire. —*Bernice Tell*

Bernice Tell is a Washington free-lance writer.

'Back of the Big House' Exhibition on Tour

"Back of the Big House: The Cultural Landscape of the Plantation," a Library of Congress traveling exhibition, began touring the United States in February. Its first venue was Magnolia Mound Plantation in Baton Rouge, La., where it was on display from Feb. 4 to March 19; it was also on display at the Frank McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville from April 7 to May 31.

Its next venue is the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina at Columbia, where it will be on view from Aug. 11 to Sept. 25.

The exhibition offers an uncommon perspective on plantation life, one from the point of view of the slaves. The images depict the contributions that slaves made to their communities and the ways in which they were able to make personal gains despite living under the most adverse conditions.

Visitors to the exhibition are presented with a tour of the "business end" of the antebellum plantation. Along with the images, the exhibition contains quotes from slaves whose recollections of life on plantations provide insight into an important aspect of the American past. The quotations are drawn from the Library's collection of ex-slave narratives, which includes hundreds of oral interviews conducted by workers in the WPA's Federal Writers' Project during the 1930s. Also included in the exhibition are photographs and architectural drawings from the Historic American Buildings Survey collection in the Library of Congress.

The schedule of other venues for the exhibition is as follows:

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Oct. 14–Nov. 26, 1995; Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Dec. 16, 1995–Jan. 28, 1996; Tolbert County Historical Museum, Easton, Md., Feb. 17–March 31, 1996; and the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, Huntsville, Texas, April 20–June 2, 1996.

Additional venues include the Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery, Aug. 24–Oct. 6, 1996; Frederick Douglass Library, University of Maryland/Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Oct. 26–Dec. 8, 1996; and the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Feb. 23–April 9, 1997.

Guide to Protective Boxes

The Library of Congress recently published *Boxes for the Protection of Books: Their Design and Construction*, a looseleaf guide for book conservators, museum technicians and library curators who wish to construct protective boxes for items in their collections.

Compiled by Lage Carlson, supervisor of the Phased Conservation Section, and other members of the Library's Conservation Office, this edition is a revised and updated version of *Boxes for the Protection of Rare Books: Their Design and Construction*, which was published in 1982.

"Protective boxing continues to be an important and cost-effective strategy in preserving our book collections for future generations," explained Diane Kresh, the library's director for preservation. The manual describes the various types of boxes constructed in the Phased Section of the Conservation Office.

The book is for sale from the Superintendent of Documents for $20, New Orders, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA, 15250-7954, Fax (202) 512–2250.

Refer to stock order number: S/N 030–000–00253–9 when ordering and allow four to six weeks for delivery.

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